

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

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TAGS: EALR, EAGR, EPAP, AS

SUBJ: AUSTRALIAN WINTER GRAIN HARVEST

FOLLOWING REPEAT AGRICULTURE CANBERRA 130413Z JAN 76,
SENT ACTION USDA/FAS/WASHDC 13 JAN,

QUOTE

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1. TOFAS 8 FROM AGATTACHE FOR GRAIN AND FEED DIV.,
FCA/FAS/W.

2. AUSTRALIAN WINTER GRAIN HARVEST ABOUT 80 PERCENT
COMPLETED AND ON BASIS OF DELIVERIES TO DATE WHEAT
CROP ESTIMATE REVISED UPWARD TO 11.73 MILLION TONS
FROM ABOUT 8.8 MILLION HECTARES HARVESTED. STATE
CROPS ARE NOW ESTIMATED AS FOLLOWS: NSW 4.16
MILLION TONS, VICTORIA 1.69 MILLION TONS, QUEENS-
LAND 0.81 MILLION TONS, SOUTH AUSTRALIA 1.16 MILLION
TONS, AND WESTERN AUSTRALIAN 3.91 MILLION TONS. FINAL
FIGURE COULD BE SLIGHTLY HIGHER, POSSIBLY BRINGING
CROP CLOSE TO 11.9 MILLION TONS. THIS WOULD BE WELL
ABOVE EARLIER EXPECTATIONS AND REFLECTS MILD CONDIT-
IONS DURING GROWING PERIOD AND GENERALLY FAVORABLE
HARVESTING WEATHER. CROPS WERE LARGER THA LAST YEAR
IN NEW SOUTH WALES, WESTERN AUSTRALIAN AND QUEENSLAND,
BUT LOWER IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA AND VICTORIA, WHERE DRY
CONDITIONS PREVENTED SOWINGS OR REDUCED YIELD POT-
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ENTIAL.

3. AUSTRALIAN WHEAT BOARD NOW EXPECTS DELIVERIES TO REACH 10.9 MILLION METRIC TONS, WHICH TOGETHER WITH CARRY-OVER OF 1.7 MILLIONS TONS WILL BRING TOTAL MARKETABLE SUPPLIES TO 12.6 MILLION TONS. APPROXIMATELY 3 MILLIONS TONS WILL BE REQUIRED FOR DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION AND MINIMAL CARRY-OVER OF 500.000 TONS AT END OF NOVEMBER 1976, LEAVING 9.6 MILLION TONS AVAILABLE FOR EXPORT. NEARLY HALF OF THIS HAS BEEN SOLD UNDER LONG TERM CONTRACTS, WHILE A SUBSTANTIAL PROPORTION OF THE REMAINDER HAS BEEN COMMITTED OR RESERVED FOR TRADITIONAL MARKETS. ALTHOUGH BOARD MAY NOT BE ABLE TO DISPOSE OF ENTIRE EXPORTABLE SURPLUS, CARRY-OVER SHOULD NOT BE BURDENSOME AND PROBABLY WILL BE SIMILAR TO THAT OF NOVEMBER 30, 1975. MAIN PROBLEM WILL B LARGE PROPORTION OF PRIME HARD AND HARD WHEAT IN CROP, WHICH WILL NOT BE AS EASY TO SELL AT CURRENT PRICES AS ASW.

4. BARLEY AND OAT CROPS ALSO TURNED OUT BETTER THAN EXPECTED, WITH RECORD CROPS HARVESTED IN QUEENSLAND AND NSW. CURRENT BARLEY PRODUCTION ESTIMATE 3.24 MILLIONS TONS. COMPRISING 0.62 IN NSW, 0.49 IN VICTORIA, 0.46 IN QUEENSLAND, 1.1 IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA, AND 0.59 IN WESTERN AUSTRALIAN. SUBSTANTIAL FORWARD SALES HAD BEEN MADE TO JAPAN AND USSR, AND MOST OF REMAINDER WILL BE TAKEN UP BY TRADITIONAL BUYERS IN FAR EAST AND EUROPE, EITHER AS BARLEY OR AS MALT. OAT PRODUCTION NOW ESTIMATED AT 1.37 MILLION TONS, OF WHICH MOST WILL BE RETAINED FOR DOMESTIC FEEDING.

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